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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL DIRECTIVE

on

COVERT OPERATIONS

1. The National Security Council, taking cognizance of the vicious covert activities of the USSR and Communist China and the governments, parties and groups dominated by them (hereafter collectively referred to as "International Communism") to discredit and defeat the aims and activities of the United States and other powers of the free world, has determined that, in the interests of world peace and U. S. national security, the overt foreign activities of the U. S. Government must be supplemented by covert operations.

2. The Central Intelligence Agency has already been charged by the National Security Council with conducting espionage and counterespionage operations abroad. It therefore seemed desirable, for operational reasons, not to create a new agency for covert operations, but, subject to this directive, to place the responsibility for them on the Central Intelligence Agency and correlate them with espionage and counterespionage operations under the over-all control of the Director of Central Intelligence.

3. Such covert operations shall be designed to:

a. Create and exploit troublesome problems for International Communism, impair relations between the USSR and Communist China and between them and their satellites, complicate control in the satellites, and retard the growth of the military and economic potential of the Soviet bloc;

b. Discredit the prestige and ideology of International Communism, and reduce the strength of its parties and other elements;

c. Counter any

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- c. Counter any threat of a party or individuals directly or indirectly responsive to Communist control to achieve dominant power in a free world country;
- d. Defeat International Communist control over any areas of the world;
- e. Strengthen the orientation toward the United States of the peoples and nations of the free world, accentuate, wherever possible, the identity of interest between such peoples and nations and the United States as well as favoring, where appropriate, those groups genuinely advocating or believing in the advancement of such mutual interests, and increase capacity and will of such peoples and nations to resist International Communism;

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4. Under the authority of Section 102 (d) (5) of the National Security Act of 1947, the National Security Council hereby directs that the Director of Central Intelligence shall be responsible for:

- a. Ensuring that covert operations are planned and conducted in a manner consistent with United States foreign and military policies and

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with overt activities, obtaining advice in this respect from the Operations Coordinating Board or from the appropriate departments or agencies.

b. Ensuring that plans for wartime covert operations are drawn up with the assistance of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and are acceptable to the latter as being consistent with and complementary to approved plans for wartime military operations.

c. Informing, through appropriate channels, agencies of the U.S. Government, both at home and abroad (including diplomatic and military representatives) of such operations on a need-to-know basis.

5. All plans for covert wartime operations to be conducted in active theaters of war where American forces are engaged shall be coordinated with the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Such covert operations will be conducted under such command and control relationships as have been approved by the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

6. As used in this directive, "covert operations" shall be understood to be all activities conducted pursuant to this directive which are so planned and executed that any U. S. Government responsibility for them is not evident to unauthorized persons and that if uncovered the U. S. Government can plausibly disclaim any responsibility for them. Specifically, such operations shall include any covert activities related to: propaganda; political action; economic warfare; preventive direct action, including sabotage, anti-sabotage, demolition, escape and evasion and evacuation measures; subversion, including assistance to underground resistance movements,

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guerrillas and refugee liberation groups, support of indigenous and anti-communist elements in threatened countries of the free world and deception plans and operations and all activities necessary to accomplish the foregoing. Such operations shall not include armed conflict by recognized military forces, nor espionage, counter-espionage, cover and deception for military operations.

7. This directive supersedes and rescinds NSC 10/2, NSC 10/5 and subparagraphs a and b under the heading "Additional Functions of the Operations Coordinating Board" on page 1 of the President's memorandum for the Executive Secretary, National Security Council supplementing Executive Order 10483.

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